

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8734

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR

SUBJ: CIVAIR: US-FRANCE BILATERAL TALKS

1. DURING RECENT CONVERSATION WITH TRAUCHESSEC OF SGAC, HE MADE PASSING REFERENCE TO EXPIRATION OF US-FRANCE MOU ON CHARTERS AT THE END OF 1975. WE SAID THAT WE WERE WITHOUT ANY INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPT. IN THIS REGARD, THOUGH IT SEEMED TO US IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE PIN DOWN SOONER RATHER THAN LATER DATES FOR NEGOTIATION OF RENEWAL OF MOU IN ORDER FIT THESE DATES INTO NEGOTIATING SCHEDULES OUR TWO DELS. TRAUCHESSEC AGREED AND UNDERTOOK DISCUSS WITH ABRAHAM. HE HAS REPORTED BACK TO US THAT ABRAHAM WILL RAISE THIS QUESTION WHILE IN WASHINGTON IN MID-MAY.

2. ABRAHAM HAD TOLD US PREVIOUSLY THAT HE INTENDED MAKE FIRST VISIT TO WASHINGTON SHORTLY IN HIS NEW CAPACITY AS DIRECTOR OF AIR TRANSPORT AT SGAC IN ORDER HAVE INFORMAL TALKS WITH OFFICIALS OF VARIOUS USG AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH CIVAIR MATTERS. WE ASSUME THAT HIS PROGRAM IS BEING WORKED OUT THROUGH LANSALOT-BASOU OF FRENCH EMBASSY.

3. ABRAHAM VISIT ALSO RAISES QUESTION OF STATUS OF CONSULTATIONS UNDER US-FRANCE CIVAIR BILATERAL, WHICH ARE STILL FORMALLY PENDING FOLLOWING LAST

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ROUND OF TALKS IN PARIS IN JANUARY 1974. DEPT. WILL

RECALL THAT AT THAT TIME FRENCH DEL INDICATED IT HOPED CONSULTATIONS COULD BE RESUMED BEFORE SUMMER 1974. GOF DID NOT FOLLOW UP WITH REQUEST FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS, HOWEVER, DOUBTLESS BECAUSE OF ITS EMBARRASSMENT AT THE TIME OVER THE UNRESOLVED CDG AIRPORT ISSUE WHICH THE US DEL WOULD HAVE CERTAINLY RAISED AND WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE AUGURED WELL FOR SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF ROUTE TALKS WHEREIN GOF POSITION WAS NOT A STRONG ONE ANYWAY EVEN UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES. IN SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS SOME WEEKS AGO WITH SGAC (ESPEROU), FOREIGN MINISTRY (CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE), AND AIR FRANCE (RIVOAL), WE FOUND THEM UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT RESUMPTION OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON ROUTES WAS NOW A DEAD LETTER IN VIEW OF DEPRESSED STATE OF THE AIR TRANSPORT INDUSTRY. CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE FELT GOF WOULD BE RELUCTANT FORMALLY MOVE FOR TERMINATION OF CONSULTATIONS WHICH IT HAD INITIATED SOME YEARS AGO, AND SHE THOUGHT BEST COURSE WOULD SIMPLY BE TO LEAVE CONSULTATIONS SUSPENDED SINE DIE.

4. WE HAVE NOT RAISED QUESTION OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH ABRAHAM IN ORDER NOT UNDULY EXAGGERATE IMPORTANCE THIS MATTER. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE WILL RAISE WHILE IN WASHINGTON. WHILE HE TOO MAY FEEL THAT RESUMPTION OF TALKS IS NOT PROPITIOUS IN PRESENT CLIMATE, WE CANNOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT IN HIS NEW FUNCTIONS HE WILL FEEL CHALLENGE OF ATTEMPTING SUCCEED WHERE HIS PREDECESSOR (AND FOREIGN MINISTRY) FAILED. DEPT. SHOULD BE ALERTED, HOWEVER, IN ANTICIPATION ANY CONTACTS WITH ABRAHAM, THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY FEELS MOST STRONGLY ABOUT ITS PREROGATIVES IN ACTING AS GOF SPOKESMAN IN CIVAIR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH US.

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